TALE LITE

New, colorful special license plates debut in New Jersey

Everybody loves a winner! And, everybody loves to win. Imagine a contest where everyone -- contestant and non-contestant -- wins!

Take, for example, the Save Our Shores Contest Motor Vehicle Services held last July to select a design for the new shore license plate. Not only will the winner see their handiwork on New Jersey's vehicles, but motorists will have a beautiful new special plate they can purchase. Last but not least, New Jersey's environment wins! The revenue from the sale of the plates will fund several shore protection programs to preserve New Jersey's natural resources.

The 90 lighthouse, boat, bird and beach designs show New Jerseyans are committed to preserving the Jersey shore. Choosing a winner from among the excellent entries wasn't easy. "We were very impressed with the variety of Shore themes represented in the entries," said Director Skip Lee. "Because there were so many good ideas, we decided to showcase the different aspects of the Jersey Shore in a variety of ways." After much deliberation, Director Skip Lee announced the winners in four categories.

Adult Runners-Up:

- Kathleen Dillon of Neptune City submitted a design in shades of brown and green with a Piping Plover by her nest on the beach. Kathleen's message about the Plover, an endangered species is: Save New Jersey's Shore - So our Children Know.

- Terri Foti of Bayville drew two people sitting under a colorful umbrella on the beach. Her message is: New Jersey - It's Shore to Please.

- Kimberlee Ryan of Pine Beach drew a colorful beach, with a pathway between the dunes and grasses leading to the ocean and a kite flying in the distance. Kimberlee's message is: New Jersey - It's a Shore Thing.

Child's Category:

- Six-year old Megan Petruska of Toms River drew a typical child's view of the shore that includes sailboats, a pail, shovel, sandcastle and starfish. She states: I Love the Shore.

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Motor Vehicle Services

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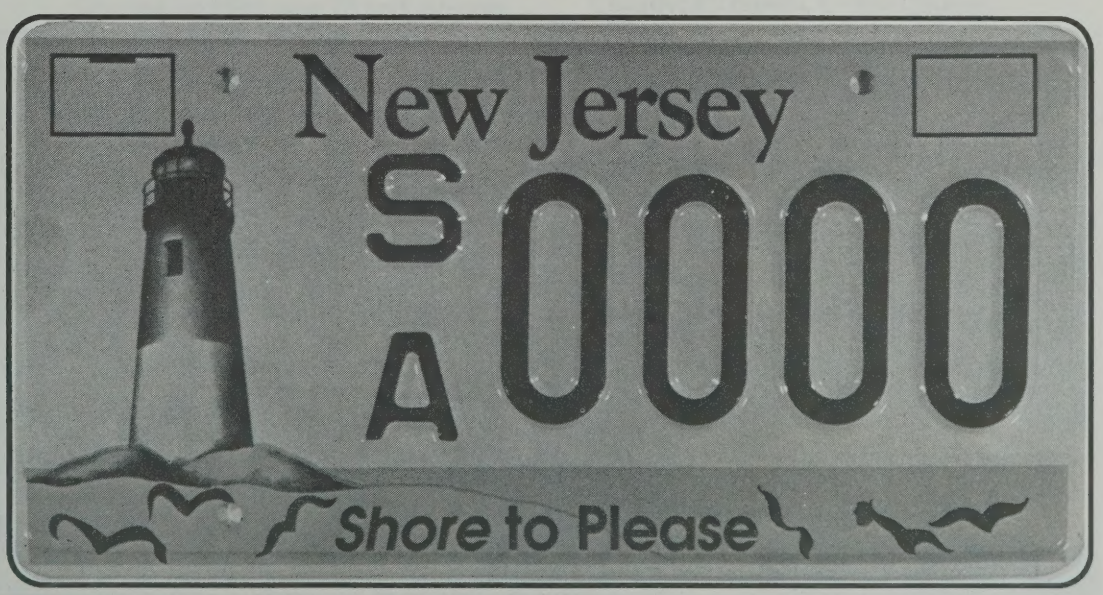


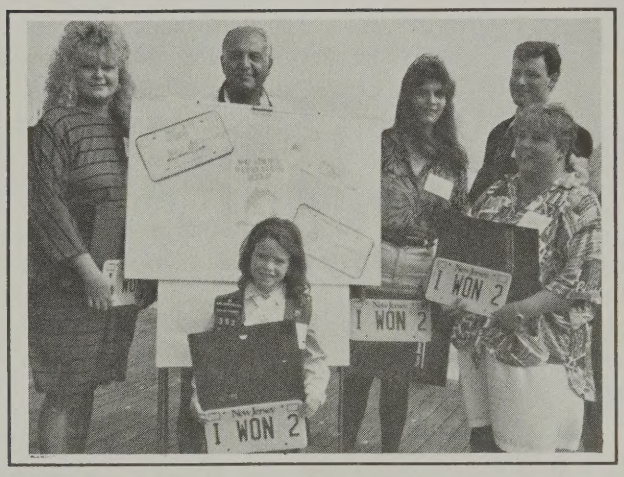
New, colorful special license plates debut in New Jersey (continued from page 1)

Poster Winner:

- Carl Sicignano of Toms River featured a dolphin diving into the ocean and an environmental caption: We Shore Need your Help.

Shore Plate Design Winner:

- Brian Talty of Toms River designed a red and white lighthouse surrounded by a beach with seagulls, framed by a blue ocean.



Winners in the Shore Protection License Plate Contest pose on the boardwalk in Atlantic City. Among those whose designs were selected were (from left) Terri Foti, Bayville; Carl Sicignano, Toms River; Kimberlee Ryan, Pine Beach; Brian Talty, Toms River; Kathleen Dillon, Neptune City, and Megan Petruska, Toms River (bottom center).

The designs by adult runners-up and Megan Petruska, the child's category winner, will be featured on informational insert cards mailed to New Jersey motorists that tell about the Shore plates and how to obtain them.

Carl Sicignano's poster will be displayed in all motor vehicle agencies. In that way, the motorists will see a replica of the plate they are buying. These are the first special plates that are available as an "over-the-counter" sale.

And, sales are positive. From January 4, the date the plates became available for sale, to February 2, Shore plate purchases totalled 1,251.

"I'm very pleased with the sale of the Shore plates," stated Director Skip Lee. "Combined with the sale of the Wildlife plates, I would say it's definitely a win-win situation for the Jersey shore, our wildlife and motorists."

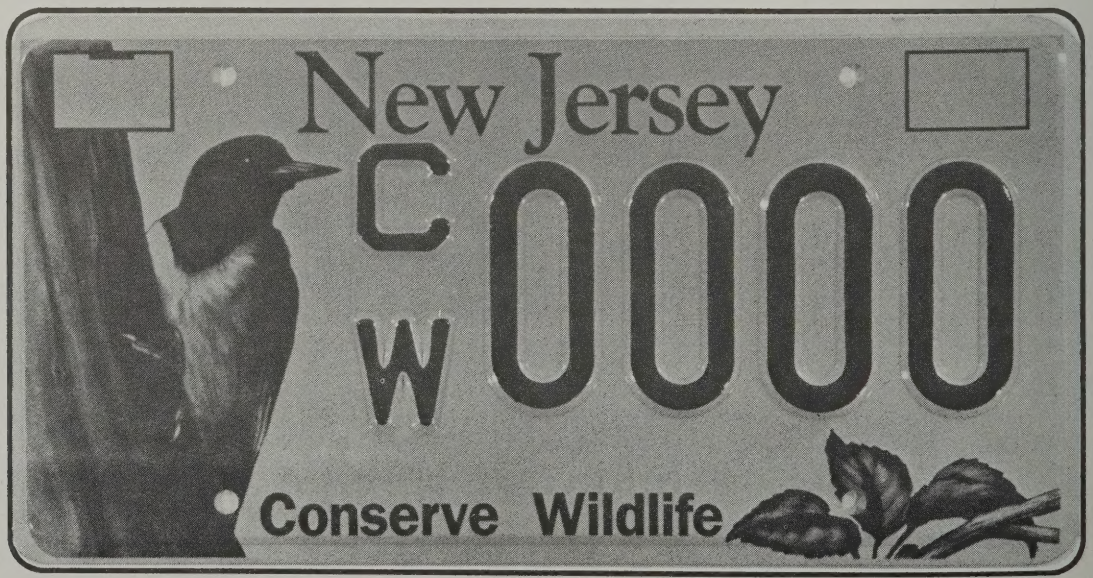
The Wildlife plates were available simultaneously with the Shore plates Designed by Doreen Curtin of Warren County, the plates feature a colorful illustration of the red-headed woodpecker perched on a tree with "Conserve Wildlife" across the bottom. The wildlife plates provide money for habitat protection and restoration and management projects for more than 400 endangered or threatened species.

For years, the Endangered and Nongame Species Program within the Department of Environmental Protection and Energy's Division of Fish, Game and Wildlife depended on taxpayers check-off donations on their state income tax forms.

Now 80% of the monies from the sale of the plates will go directly to wildlife protection funds. Applications to purchase the Wildlife plates were available to motorists on November 24, 1993. From the official sale date, New Jersey motorists purchased 5,128 Wildlife plates.

Both the Shore and Wildlife plates are $50. There is a $10 renewal fee for the Shore plate. Personalized Shore or Wildlife plates (limited to a maximum of five characters) are available by mail for $100.

Are you ready to join these winners and purchase a Shore or Wildlife plate? If you are but need more information on the Shore plates, call 292-6500; on the Wildlife plates, call 1-800-WPLATES.



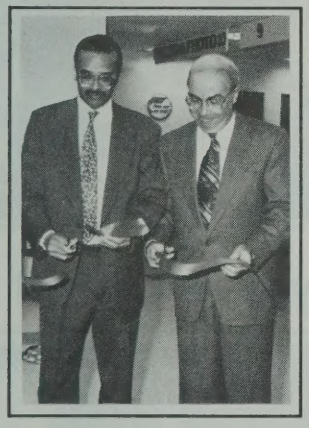
Agency upgrades moving right along

Motorists in Hudson, Ocean, Cumberland and Middlesex counties can now conduct their motor vehicle business in new, modern, more spacious motor vehicle agencies due to upgrades of four facilities, Director Skip Lee announced.

"Each of the new, enhanced facilities have 3,000 to 4,000 square feet, have unlimited parking and large, comfortable customer waiting areas," Fred Hoffman, Assistant Director of Customer Services said. "The employees are also working in an improved physical environment, and that's a win-win solution."

The new, 4,433 square foot Jersey City Agency at 438 Summit Avenue opened in November. Featuring a 10-terminal, automated driver testing center drivers can purchase a permit and take their driver test in one convenient location.

Director Skip Lee and Senator Edward T. O'Connor Jr. (right) cut the ribbon opening the relocated Jersey City Agency in Hudson County on November 15, 1993.



Driver license testing was not offered at the former 1,500 square foot agency on Central Ave. The closest driver testing center was located in another part of the city forcing motorists to drive back and forth between locations to get their license. The driver testing center was merged with the new agency, Assistant Director Hoffman explained.

"We were able to maximize the use of taxpayer dollars by merging the two locations into one," Hoffman said. "By working smarter, we're able to save money."

In January, the division opened two remodeled agencies, in Lakewood, Ocean County, and in Bridgeton, Cumberland County.

Located on Highway 70 and Airport Road in the Leisure Center Shopping Mall, the new 4,000 square foot Lakewood Agency replaced the smaller Pt. Pleasant Agency on Arnold Ave.

With a larger, more comfortable waiting area, and unlimited parking, the new agency offers all basic motorist services, such as issuing driver licenses, registrations, titles and license plates.

Conveniently located just two blocks from the former Bridgeton Agency, the new Cumberland County facility offers motorists more than 450 additional square feet of space and the continued convenience of a downtown shopping district location.

General Services Administration's (GSA) state lease consolidation program coordinated the move. The agency is one of several state offices housed in the same building.

Maureen Androshick (left), Agency Service Assistant I at the nearly opened South Plainfield Agency in the Middlesex Mall, assists one of the first customers after ribbon cutting ceremonies on February 7.

In February, the Dunellen Agency shut its doors after 11 years and moved five miles to a new, spacious 4,000 square foot facility in South Plainfield's Middlesex Mall.

Offering the convenience of automated driver testing, which was not available in the former Dunellen facility, and unlimited parking in the mall parking lot, the agency is near Stern's Department Store in the 40 store mall. Motorists can combine their shopping errands with a trip to motor vehicles to take the written and vision tests, renew a license or registration, or complete other agency business.

The division has upgraded a total of eight agencies in the last two years. The others that were remodeled are: Eatontown, Monmouth County; Rio Grande, Cape May County; Freehold, Monmouth County; Elizabeth, Union County.

Marion Hutchcroft, Supervisor at the Lakewood Agency, helps Senator Andrew R. Ciesla renew his registration. Other dignitaries included Senator Robert W. Singer, who attended the ribbon cutting ceremony on January 14.

MVS Holiday Party a huge success again this year

More than 300 employees and their families socialized with friends and co workers, enjoyed good food, danced to great music, and (best of all) met Santa Claus! It all happened on December 10 at the MVS Holiday Party in the Colonial Fire Company, Hamilton Township.

MVS people crowded on the large, festively lit dance floor, to enjoy a wide musical selection by DJ Jerry Sacchetti.

Many old friends met and shared holiday conversation, while large portions of chicken parmigiana and London broil were served.

Making a surprise entrance, Santa Claus (a.k.a. John Zoltanski, son of Gregg Zoltanski, Supervisor of Postal Services) ho-ho-ho'd his way into the party, passed out candy canes and several door prizes before he returned to the North Pole.

Working behind the scenes to make the event a big success were Holiday Party Committee members: Kim Benson, Surcharge; Ed Besko, Personnel; Rose Day, Personnel; Mary Kline, Director's Office; Maria Rotondo, Director's Office; Ralph Sheffield, Central Services; Gregg Zoltanski, Mail Inserting; Michael Cox, South Brunswick Inspection Station;

Angela Lamorte, Technical Support; Christine Smith, Special Services; and Blaine Steen, Southampton Inspection Station.

See you next year!

And baby makes two! **John Sparano**, Supervisor 2 in the Bureau of Central Services, and his wife, Debra, Program Analyst with the Division of Pensions welcomed Sara Catherine Sparano on December 9, 1993, at Mercer Medical Center, weighing eight pounds, two ounces. She joins her big sister Jessica.

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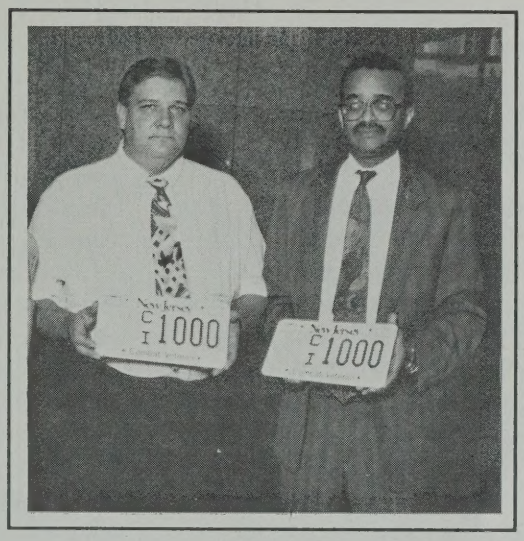
A great big "thank you" was extended to MVS employees for their generous $520 donation in lieu of Christmas gifts to Covenant House in New York. Through this support, the charity can provide shelter and other vital services to thousands of runaway and homeless youths in 1994. Covenant House gives sanctuary, medical care and counseling 24 hours a day, 365 days a year to youths under 21 years of age. "None of this would be possible without your help," Sister Mary Rose McGeady wrote in her thank you letter to **Joanne Christ**, of the Motor Carrier Unit, and **Denise Goddard**, of the Chief of Staff's Office.

• • •

Kimberly Sue Whilden, daughter of **Ralph Whilden**, Supervisor 3 at the Millville Inspection Station, has been nominated to attend the U.S. Naval Academy at Annapolis by Representative William J. Hughes. Scheduled to graduate in June from Millville High School, Kimberly hopes to begin her electrical engineering studies this September at the Academy.



Vietnam Veteran Walter J. Chojnacki of Bordentown, accepts the first Combat Infantryman Badge License Plate from Director Skip Lee. Created by legislation on March 12, 1993, the special license plates are available to over 5,000 New Jersey motorists who hold combat infantryman badges for serving 30 days of combat duty.

Dorothea Lee, Second Vice Commander of the American Veterans of World War II, Korea and Vietnam (AMVETS), receives a special AMVETS License Plate from Director Skip Lee. Theodore J. Liva, AMVETS Department Commander, and Nicholas J. Vallila, Commander of AMVETS Post 20 in Lynhurst also received plates that honor veterans of World War II, Korea and Vietnam.

Providing good service ...

Most often consumers tend to write letters complaining about service they received, however, this time I wanted to compliment your department. I recently renewed my auto registration and was very apprehensive about whether I would receive the renewal before the expiration date. Was I ever surprised when less than two weeks after I mailed my check, my new registration was in my mailbox. Thank you very much. It's nice to know that your much maligned department is providing good service.

Francis J. Gilbertson
Bradley Beach

Met with courtesy and efficiency ...

I write to you Sir to commend the efficiency by which the DMV Regional Office in Deptford is operated.

It should be noted that I was in and out of your facility in fifteen minutes. I had gone to have my change of address updated on my license, since I had recently moved.

Upon initial completion of the application I went to Line 10. I was met with courtesy and efficiency by the DMV employee and was told to have a seat, that my name would be called.

I found a comfortable seat and sat back to try to catch up some reading from St. Matthew.

I had just completed our Lord's "Sermon on the Beatitudes" (approximately 10 minutes), when I heard my name called.

I was instructed to a seat in front of a camera which photographed me (very well I might add), and within two minutes my license was handed to me.

Mr. Lee, the facility was at capacity and still the processing was exacting and flowing at a smooth rate of professionalism.

I commend your management and staff highly.

Thank you.

Chaplain Paul J. Stoms
Westville

Extremely helpful ...

I needed to call the Division of Motor Vehicles today, and was fortunate to have reached "Bonnie" in the Telephone Center.

She was not only extremely helpful, but also knowledgeable enough to ask the correct questions to get me the response I needed. Employees are an organization's most important asset, and Bonnie most certainly qualifies.

Pam Stango
East Windsor

Very timely and professional manner ...

I am writing this letter in deep appreciation for the efforts provided by Mrs. Edna Gibbs. Please accept this letter as my way of thanking her for the kindness, respect, and interest she has shown in resolving (for me) regarding the record status of my son. She has educated me and restored my feelings with state government policies.

I was (before being disabled) working as a manager at a large electronics firm here in Nutley. I would of had no hesitation in accepting a person such as Mrs. Gibbs. Her disposition in handling and supplying the concrete information in resolving all the most complicated issues involved in trying to restore my son's license, which by the way goes back ten years. I cannot thank her enough. I felt I had an obligation to inform you personally. Please consider this as a thank you and especially Mrs. Gibbs for response to my request in a very timely and professional manner. Please enter this letter in her personnel jacket. This would be greatly appreciated.

Rudy Salaterski
Nutley

TALE LITE

Christine Todd Whitman, Governor
Deborah T. Poritz, Attorney General
Skip Lee, Director, Motor Vehicle Services

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Employees are invited to share their newsworthy stories, opinions and ideas by calling 609-292-6908, by mailing them to the Communications Office, CN 164, Trenton, NJ 08666, or by coming in person to the 9th floor - West, 225 E. State St., Trenton, NJ.

LAPS
Department of Law and Public Safety
Division of Motor Vehicles